

Insurance Partnership

What is it?	<p>The Insurance Partnership (IP) is a program that helps small employers pay for health insurance in the employer's health insurance plan.</p> <p>For each employee who participates in the program, the IP gives a subsidy to both the employer, and a separate subsidy to the employee.</p>
Who does it apply to?	<p>Employer Criteria: An employer is eligible for the IP program if he/she meets all these criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employer has 50 or fewer full-time employees, or is self-employed, AND • The employer offers (or plans to offer) comprehensive health insurance to his/her employees, AND ... • The employer contributes (or is willing to contribute) at least 50% of the cost of employer-sponsored health insurance that is purchased by the employee. <p>Employee Criteria: An employee may be determined eligible for the IP program if he/she meets all these criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The employee is between the ages of 19 and 64. • The employee is a resident of Massachusetts and meets certain citizenship requirements. • The employee has not been offered health insurance by his/her current employer in the past 6 months, and has not been eligible for health insurance through his/her spouse's employer in the past 6 months. • The employee has a family income that is at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. (For 2006: 300% of the Federal Poverty Level is \$29,412 for 1 person, and \$60,012 for 4 persons).
When?	<p>Although the IP has been in operation since 1999, the Health Care Reform Law made 3 changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starting October 1, 2006: The income limit was expanded to include employees with a family income at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. • Starting October 1, 2006: The following eligibility criteria was added: An employee can only participate in the IP if he/she has not been offered health insurance by his/her current employer in the past 6 months, and has not been eligible for health insurance through his/her spouse's employer in the past 6 months. • Starting July 1, 2007: Self-employed individuals and self-employed couples can continue to participate in the IP and receive one subsidy as an employee. However, they are no longer eligible to receive two subsidies for being both an employee and an employer.
How much does the IP give to employers?	<p>In order to decrease the employer's share of the premium cost for an employee's health plan, the IP provides a subsidy to the employer. The exact amount of the subsidy depends on what type of plan the employee is enrolled in.</p> <p>For example, the IP provides the following subsidy to the employer:</p> <p>For an individual plan up to \$400 per employee per year For a two-person plan up to \$800 per employee per year For a family plan up to \$1,000 per employee per year</p>
How much does the IP give to employees?	<p>The IP also provides the following subsidy to the employee:</p> <p>For an individual plan up to \$150 per month For a two-person plan up to an additional \$150 per month for a spouse covered by the policy For a family plan up to an additional \$210 per month per child covered by the policy</p>
For more information	<p>Contact the IP at 1-800-399-8285 or visit their website: www.insurancepartnership.org</p>